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# Awarding Montana Productivity Award

Max S. Baucus

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Senator \* or Department\*: **BAUCUS**

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MONTH/YEAR of Records\*: **August-1984**

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(1) Subject\*: **Small Business**

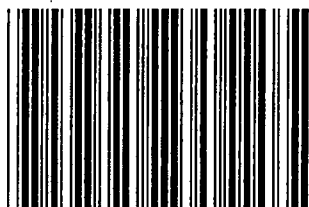
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(2) Subject\* **Awarding Montana Productivity Award**

DOCUMENT DATE\*: **08/16/1984**

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BAUCUS

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REMARKS BY MONTANA SENATOR MAX BAUCUS  
IN AWARDING MONTANA PRODUCTIVITY AWARD  
AUGUST 16, 1984

I am pleased to recognize today the efforts of Columbia Paint by awarding you the 1984 U.S. Senate Productivity Award.

This award is being given because of your outstanding efforts to make your operations more productive.

American companies have been getting less and less efficient in recent years. That trend has made it easier for foreign companies, that are more efficient in using their resources, to sell their products here.

It's time we reverse that trend. And that's the purpose of the Productivity Award.

The Productivity Award was conceived as a way to call attention to companies that are using innovative, imaginative techniques to operate more efficiently.

Columbia Paint is one such company. Columbia Paint provides incentives -- bonuses -- to employees for increasing their production of paint.

Each employee at Columbia Paint has earned an average of \$700 a year. And the company's productivity rate has improved by

21 percent since this program was begun. In addition, the company has been able to increase wages by 38 percent.

But Columbia Paint is not alone in seeking improvements in productivity.

The competition in Montana was stiff. Nineteen companies applied. All submitted worthy applications. The panel of Montanans who judged the applications and made the final choice had a difficult job.

We in Montana should be proud. These companies are national leaders in one of the most important economic challenges facing our nation: making the best possible use of the resources we have.

We must look for imaginative ways to improve agricultural production, to transport our products and raw materials, and to process these materials.

We must look for better management and labor relations. And we must look for innovative financing techniques.

Our challenge in this decade is to make ourselves competitive again in the world market. Columbia Paint and the other Montana companies who participated in this competition are doing that. I salute their efforts.